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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SM27/aSRC</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Soules</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.212735.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SRC/SEC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>School Library Assessment</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Terrazas</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/31/19</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/26/19</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee Amendment to Senate Memorial 27 (SM27/aSRC) removes all references to charter schools. Charter schools are public schools.

Synopsis of Original Memorial

Senate Memorial 27 (SM27) requests the Public Education Department (PED) to assist the New Mexico Libraries Association and the Libraries Transform New Mexico steering committee to conduct an assessment of school libraries and school librarians in New Mexico public schools to determine resources and needs for the operation of school libraries. The memorial requests PED present the findings and recommendations of the assessment to the LESC by October 1, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Memorials do not contain appropriations.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The last statewide study of the number and impact of school libraries was conducted in 2002. Numerous research studies from across the country show students who attend schools with certified teacher-librarians and high-quality library facilities perform better on standardized tests and are more likely to graduate. These findings endure after controlling for school size and income level of students. However, many of these studies also found that students who live in poverty are the least likely to have access to a quality school library.

According to the 2016 New Mexico Libraries Assessment from the New Mexico Library Foundation, 88 percent of school libraries in the state experienced flat or declining funding. Meanwhile, 92 percent of school libraries also reported flat or increasing demand for materials. One in five school libraries does not offer wireless internet, while nearly half do not have

broadband internet access. Additionally, one in three school librarians in the state lack standard credentialing.

In a 2016 survey of school library officials, the most commonly reported challenges include lack of physical space in school buildings and other infrastructure deficiencies such as a lack of outlets. Also, school librarians report that school officials have increasingly used library space for standardized testing purposes. Nearly one in four school librarians reported that their library was closed for more than 21 days due to standardized testing administration.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED would be required to assist the New Mexico Library Association and the Libraries Transform New Mexico steering committee with an assessment of the state's public school libraries and librarians to identify resources and needs for the operation of school libraries.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Will the assessment of school libraries include the possibility of sharing library facilities between public schools or between public schools and other public organizations, such as public libraries?

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**DT/mc**